



EPA Region 10 Dive Team

Onondaga Vessel Survey, Seattle, WA

What: The Region 10 dive team was asked to conduct a survey of the former USCG vessel Onondaga by USCG and the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources (WADNR).

Why: The [EPA Region 10 dive unit](#) was asked to characterize the extent of hazmat contamination in the sunken vessel. This information will be used by a variety of entities for prioritization of resources in dealing with the large number of derelict vessels in and around Puget Sound.

Where: The vessel surveyed is located at Lake in the Ship Canal, near the [Hiram M. Chittenden USACE Locks](#).

When: April 2011.

How: Divers used surface supplied diving equipment, drysuits, drygloves, and full face masks to conduct a video survey of the exterior of the vessel. Video documentation was provided to Due to the possibility of contamination present on the bottom of the ship canal, and the possibility of bacteria from stormwater runoff in the water column, divers were kept totally dry and were subjected to potable water decontamination after each dive.

Equipment: EPA vessel Monitor was used as the dive platform.

Results: Photos, video, and narrative descriptions were conveyed to WADNR and USCG.

More details:

EPA divers to survey sunken vessel in Lake Washington Ship Canal

Divers with the *Environmental Protection Agency* are planning an underwater survey Wednesday of a Coast Guard ice breaker that has been submerged for over 20 years. *Diving officer Sean Sheldrake* says a team of divers will inspect the vessel for potentially hazardous materials, such as leaking oil or batteries. http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2014884767_apwaepadive.html

Video coverage:

King 5: <http://www.king5.com/video?id=120827624&sec=549122>

Komo4: http://www.komonews.com/news/local/120845714.html#13039969838751&if_height=663

Kiro 7: <http://www.kiro7.com/news/27691715/detail.html> (uncut chopper video of the surface supplied dive)

Contact information: Rob Pedersen, (206) 553-1646, pedersen.rob@epa.gov

Photos:

Above surface rigging on the Onondaga.



Surface supply air set-up on the Monitor.



Forward rigging on the Onondaga.



Bow.





Rob Rau preparing to dive; Chad Schulze tending.



The press arrives.



Metal tie down on forward deck.



Old line and material through opening in the gunnel.



Freshwater mussel.



Hull and bottom sediment.



Opening for ship's line.



Tie down.



Portion of rudder.



Return to [EPA Region 10 Dive Team](#) homepage.